

WORLD AIDS DAY—DECEMBER 1ST,
2012

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance and significance of World AIDS Day.

Established by the World Health Organization in 1988, December 1st is universally known as World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day serves to focus global attention on the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. All governments, national AIDS programs, churches, community organizations and individuals are given the opportunity to display their commitment to fight this deadly disease.

It has been more than 30 years since the first AIDS case was reported in the United States. It does not seem like it was too long ago, but HIV/AIDS had affected many around the world before the disease even made its way to America's shores. Since then, countless researchers, healthcare providers, politicians, and educators have contributed to the global initiative to contain and eventually eliminate its presence in all corners of the world.

Although HIV/AIDS is no longer a mysterious and mischaracterized entity, it is the most relentless and indiscriminate killer of our time. And though a diagnosis is no longer the sealing of an immediate fate, it is the beginning of an indefinite battle for life, adequate health care, and for social belonging.

With an estimated 38.6 million people worldwide living with HIV at the end of 2005, and more than 25 million people having died of AIDS since 1981, December 1st is a date which serves to remind everyone that action makes a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Let there be no mistake, we are here to acknowledge that AIDS is a deadly enemy against which we must join all our forces to fight and eliminate.

Americans should be reminded that HIV/AIDS does not discriminate. With an estimated 1,039,000 to 1,185,000 HIV-positive individuals living in the U.S. and approximately 56,000 new infections occurring every year, the U.S., like other nations around the world is deeply affected by HIV/AIDS.

The detrimental effects of HIV/AIDS have also hit home. More than 65,000 people in Texas are living with HIV. Thirty-Six percent more Texans are living with HIV today than just seven years ago. In 2010, studies showed that 1 in every 3 diagnosed persons in Texas were not getting proper medical treatment. We must make certain that every affected individual receive efficient medical treatment that will afford them long life.

Not only is the state of Texas suffering from HIV and AIDS, but my district, the 18th Congressional District of Texas, has seen an increasing number of people living with the disease. In 2010, there were over 22,000 reported persons living with HIV (non-AIDS) in the greater Houston area, and more than 9,000 reported persons living with AIDS.

This problem continues to escalate as there have been 1,700 new infections each year among individuals in Harris County, particularly among racial and ethnic minorities. We must continue to fight a tough fight to reverse all of these costly and tragic trends.

I will continue to sponsor and co-sponsor legislation that addresses the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The fight is not over. We must continue to stand strong in our struggle to conquer some old and new challenges that we as Americans and members of the global community encounter.

This Saturday, December 1st is World AIDS Day. And, we will focus on HIV/AIDS, prevention and awareness, and continue to fight for life. Together, we will help all of our friends, relatives, and children live healthy and full lives.

MARKING WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, December 1, World AIDS Day, is an opportunity for people in the United States and around the world to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS, to show their support for those living with the virus, and to commemorate the many who have died from this terrible disease.

The first World AIDS Day was held in 1988, just weeks after my first election to Congress. I am proud of the work the Congress has done since that time to combat the scourge of HIV and AIDS throughout the world. Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the work of the U.S. Agency for International Development, and our support to multilateral organizations, such as UNAIDS and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United States has led the way in modernizing the global response to HIV and AIDS. Our efforts not only save lives, but also promote economic growth and increased stability throughout the world. Recognizing that we cannot beat this epidemic with treatment alone, I am pleased that recent global efforts are increasingly focused on prevention as well as sustainability, efficiency, and program effectiveness.

Today, there is more hope than ever that we can achieve an AIDS-free generation. A new UNAIDS report demonstrates the clear progress we have made in our fight. Access to antiretroviral therapy has increased by an incredible 63 percent in the last 24 months alone, and AIDS-related deaths fell by more than 25 percent globally between 2005 and 2011. The rate of new HIV infections has been reduced by more than 50 percent in the last decade across 25 low- and middle-income countries—more than half of which are in Africa. This could not have happened without U.S. leadership. PEPFAR has directly supported HIV testing and counseling for more than 49 million people in fiscal year 2012, providing a critical entry point to prevention, treatment, and care.

However, despite the encouraging progress, estimates are that 6.8 million infected people still need access to treatment, and the total number of new HIV infections remains high, at 2.5 million persons worldwide in 2011. This is simply unacceptable. So while our efforts are impressive, they are clearly not enough. The spread of HIV and AIDS continues to disproportionately affect many of the most vulnerable populations, especially women and girls, and I will not rest until we bring an end to

AIDS here at home and around the world. Our commitment to ending this pandemic must be smart, strategic, and unwavering. AIDS knows no boundaries, and neither must our generosity and determination to overcome it. And so, on this 25th World AIDS Day, I urge my colleagues to continue our commitment to fighting this disease.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN'S GENEROSITY TOWARD HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF EFFORTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, my Colleagues and I were pleased to learn that the government of Taiwan (Republic of China) has pledged to donate \$1.3 million to the United Way International, Habitat for Humanity International, the states of New Jersey and New York, and New York City for post-Sandy relief.

During October of this year, Hurricane Sandy devastated much of New York, New Jersey and other parts of the Northeastern United States. Many lives were lost from these storms as were houses and many personal belongings. Having my congressional district in New York City, I witnessed a lot of this destruction firsthand.

These two charities mentioned above, among many other relief agencies, have done an excellent job in collecting funds for the victims. They were at the frontlines in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and need our help to rebuild themselves. The contributions from Taiwan will continue to provide these organizations the financial support that they need to continue to be effective.

A ceremony marking the transfer of funds to the charities will be held in Washington, D.C. on December 6, 2012. Taiwan's donation is a most generous act by the people and Taiwanese government. Taiwan gave generously to the victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and was a major donor to the Twin Towers Fund as well as the Pentagon Memorial Fund. Taiwanese friendship for us is everlasting and commendable.

This is another example of the continuing warm relations between the people of Taiwan and the people of America. We are grateful of their compassion in these difficult times.

IN HONOR OF EDYTHE Y. BRADLEY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding and truly one of a kind woman, Ms. Edythe Y. Bradley. Sadly, Ms. Bradley passed away on Saturday, November 24, 2012. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2012 at 2 p.m. at Saint Mary Missionary Baptist Church in Baconton, Georgia.

Ms. Bradley was widely known as the Sports Information Director at Albany State